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William T. Gibbs, 34, helps his clients in and out of the courtroom. In the courtroom, he and his colleagues at Corboy & Demetrio obtain record-setting, multimillion dollar verdicts in personal injury and medical malpractice cases. Gibbs concentrates on automobile collisions, railroad negligence, medical negligence, and premises liability cases.

Gibbs and other members of his trial team secured a \$29.6 million Cook County jury verdict in March 2009 for a woman who was seriously injured in a Metra train derailment. The award is the largest in the state's history for a personal injury in a mass transit crash.

He also was involved in a \$6.6 million federal verdict for a family injured in an automobile collision, the largest verdict in that court's history. Gibbs has reached settlements from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million in cases involving negligence, personal injuries and automobile accidents.

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Jeremiah P. Connolly, a litigator with Bollinger, Ruberry & Garvey, has defended cases over the last seven years where Gibbs represented the plaintiff. "The cases were not only complex from a liability standpoint," Connolly says, "but they also carried with them substantial damage exposure, which would normally have meant that a much more senior attorney would have been directing the case."

Nonetheless, Connolly says most of the work for the plaintiff in each case was performed by Gibbs. Connolly says it appeared that Gibbs was guiding the strategy and direction of the cases. Collectively, the cases settled in the millions of dollars.

Connolly attributes much of Gibbs' success to his exhaustive pre-suit investigation that nails down witness testimony long before a lawsuit is filed. "In over 30 years of practice, I have seen a great number of attorneys who take a case on face value, file it, and prepare it as it goes along or as the court orders require," Connolly says. Gibbs, like most successful trial lawyers, conducts and maps out most of the investigation and discovery early on, Connolly adds. As twists and turns occur during discovery, Gibbs uses good judgment to make needed adjustments in questioning, argument and strategy.

Dan Boho, a Hinshaw & Culbertson litigator, describes Gibbs as a first-class trial lawyer. "At trial, his ability to question lay and expert witnesses showed confidence, intelligence and insightfulness," says Boho.

Other nominators describe Gibbs as tenacious and articulate. They call him a fair and determined litigator with a great courtroom presence. "Bill has demonstrated an intelligent aggressiveness on behalf of his clients, which is tempered by civility and fairness and his pleasant personality," says J. Kent Mathewson of Donohue, Brown, Mathewson & Smyth.

Gibbs is a member of the American Association for Justice, the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the Chicago Bar Association and the Notre Dame Law Association. He recently authored an article, "A Quick Guide to the Illinois Dead Man's Act," in the Illinois Bar Journal, an Illinois State Bar Association publication.

Through the St. Clement Legal Aid Clinic, Our Lady of Mercy Legal Clinic and Mercy Home for Boys, Gibbs provides pro bono legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford private counsel. Gibbs co-chairs St. Clement Dads, a group that volunteers throughout the community and provides activities for parents and their children.

Earlier in his career, Gibbs taught high school computer science and was a varsity football, basketball and baseball coach. He was a defensive back on the varsity football team at the University of Notre Dame.

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